

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a unit including a plurality of image carriers configured to carry electrostatic latent images, respectively, and a plurality of developing devices configured to develop the electrostatic latent images with toners, respectively, and integrated with the plurality of image carriers; and

a plurality of toner feeding devices configured to feed the toners to the plurality of developing devices, respectively, and provided separately from the unit,

wherein the plurality of toner feeding devices and plurality of developing devices are detachably engaged with each other.

2. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the unit is configured to detach from and attach to a main body of the image forming apparatus.

3. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a coupling device configured to couple the plurality of developing devices with the plurality of toner feeding devices when the unit is attached to the main body of the image forming apparatus.

4. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of image carriers comprises four image carriers lined in a row in the unit, and the four image carriers are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images, respectively.

5. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of developing devices comprises four developing devices lined in a row in the unit, and the four developing devices are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images onto the plurality of image carriers, respectively.

6. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of image carriers comprises four image carriers lined in a first row, the four image carriers are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images, respectively, the plurality of developing devices comprises four developing devices lined in a second row substantially parallel to the first row, and the four developing devices are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images onto one the four image carriers, respectively.

7. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the unit further comprises a plurality of cleaning devices configured to remove residual toners on the plurality of image carriers, respectively, the image forming apparatus further comprises a toner storing device configured to store the residual toners removed by the plurality of cleaning devices, and the toner storing device is provided separately from the unit.

8. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an intermediate transfer device configured

to transfer toner images formed on the plurality of image carriers onto a recording medium.

9. A unit comprising:

a plurality of image carriers configured to carry electrostatic latent images, respectively; and

a plurality of developing devices configured to develop the electrostatic latent images with toners, respectively, and integrated with the plurality of image carriers,

wherein the unit is configured so as to be provided separately from a plurality of toner feeding devices configured to feed the toners to the plurality of developing devices, respectively, and the plurality of developing devices is configured to engage with the plurality of toner feeding devices, respectively.

10. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a unit including a plurality of image carriers configured to carry electrostatic latent images, respectively, and a plurality of developing devices configured to develop the electrostatic latent images with toners, respectively, and integrated with the plurality of image carriers; and

toner feeding means for feeding the toners to the plurality of developing devices,

wherein the feeding means is provided separately from the unit and detachably engages with the plurality of developing devices.

11. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the unit is configured to detach from and attach to a main body of the image forming apparatus.

12. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a coupling device configured to couple the plurality of developing devices with the toner feeding means when the unit is attached to the main body of the image forming apparatus.

13. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the plurality of image carriers comprises four image carriers lined in a row in the unit, and the four image carriers are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images, respectively.

14. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the plurality of developing devices comprises four developing devices lined in a row in the unit, and the four developing devices are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images onto the plurality of image carriers, respectively.

15. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the plurality of image carriers comprises four image carriers lined in a first row, the four image carriers are configured to form cyan, magenta, yellow, and black toner images, respectively, the plurality of developing devices comprises four developing units lined in a second row substantially parallel to the first row, and the four developing devices are configured to form cyan, magenta,

yellow, and black toner images onto one the four image carriers, respectively.

16. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the unit further comprises a plurality of cleaning devices configured to remove residual toners on the plurality of image carriers, respectively, the image forming apparatus further comprises a toner storing device configured to store the residual toners removed by the plurality of cleaning devices, and the toner storing device is provided separately from the unit.

17. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising an intermediate transfer device configured to transfer toner images formed on the plurality of image carriers onto a recording medium.

18. A unit comprising:

a plurality of image carriers configured to carry electrostatic latent images, respectively; and

a plurality of developing devices configured to develop the electrostatic latent images with toners, respectively, and integrated with the plurality of image carriers;

wherein the unit is configured so as to be provided separately from toner feeding means for feeding the toners to the plurality of developing devices, and the plurality of developing devices is configured to engage with the toner feeding means.